

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2021**

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Order [N-08-21](#) allowing a transition to customary open meeting requirements, this meeting occurred solely via remote presence.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Celeste Cantú called the remote meeting to order on August 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The Clerk called the roll, and Roger Mitchell gave an opening statement providing information for attendees to participate in the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members present:

Celeste Cantú, Board Chair; Betty H. Olson, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Henry Abarbanel, Ph.D.; Eric Anderson; Megan Blair; Gary Strawn; Stefanie Warren.

Ms. Warren left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Staff present:

David Gibson, Kelly Dorsey, Chris Blank, Roger Mitchell, David Barker, Jeremy Haas, Tony Felix, Tanya Clark, Erica Ryan, Eric Becker, Brandon Bushnell, Jason DuMond, Vicente Rodriguez, Sarah Mearon, Lara Quetin, Tom Alo, Daniel Boyd, Chiara Clemente, Brandi Outwin-Beals, Keith Yaeger, Chad Loflen, Carey Nagoda, Cynthia Gorham, Dulce Romero, Kimberly McMurray-Cathcart, Ben Neill, Chehreh Komeylyan, Melissa Corona, Mireille Garcia, Nicole Gergans, Jill Harris, Joann Lim, Cleo Muñoz, Michelle Santillan, Laurie Walsh, Helen Yu, Hiram Sarabia, Whitney Ghoram, Jody Ebsen, Sean McClain, Alan Monji, Mike Porter, Sasha Smirensky, Lark Starkey, Christina Arias.

Others present on behalf of the San Diego Water Board:

Nichole Morgan, State Water Resources Control Board; Catherine Hagan, Vincent Vu, Lori Okun, Office of Chief Counsel; Mark Bare, Emergency Management Program.

Public Attendance:

Rob Hutsel, Sara Hutmacher <i>San Diego River Park Foundation</i>	Margarita Diaz <i>Proyecto Fronterizo Educación Ambiental</i>
Paloma Aguirre <i>International Community Foundation</i>	Mike Beanan <i>Laguna Bluebelt Coalition</i>

BOARD MEETING

Public comments on agenda items were limited to 3 minutes or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair

PUBLIC FORUM

Mike Beanan of the Laguna Bluebelt Coalition addressed the Board regarding Aliso Beach berm violations. Laurie Walsh responded to his comments.

BOARD BUSINESS:

1. Minutes of Board Meeting: June 9, 2021

Motion to adopt the June 9, 2021 minutes:

- Ms. Warren

Second:

- Dr. Olson

MOTION CARRIED:

Aye:

- Dr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- None

2. Chairman’s, Board Members’, State Water Board Liaison’s, and Executive Officer’s Reports. *These items were for Board discussion only. Public testimony was not allowed, and the Board took no formal action.*

The newly appointed State Board Liaison, Nichole Morgan, introduced herself and provided a brief overview of her background. She then provided an update on recent actions taken by the State Board, and upcoming actions to be taken.

Board Member Olson stated that Orange County has encouraged many public service announcements of the Governor’s recommendation that residents cut water use by 15% in response to the ongoing drought. In addition, the South Coast Water District received funding for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Chair Cantú provided a summary of the Triennial Review Tribal Summit that occurred on August 4. She also spoke about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which was issued within the past few days.

Chair Cantú presented Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards to Daniel Boyd, Tom Alo, and Lara Quetin.

Sarah Mearon answered Board Member questions and comments regarding the written Executive Officer's Report. Mr. Gibson then introduced Mark Bare of the State Board Emergency Management Program, who gave a presentation regarding the wildfires in California and the State Water Board's response to them.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Items on the consent calendar may be removed at the request of any Board member or person. If an item is removed from the uncontested items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda item. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent board meeting to allow input by interested persons.*

3. Rescission of Order No. 86-48, Waste Discharge Requirements for Kathleen Rosenow and Frank Spevacek, Pinecrest Park, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2021-0120). (*Chehreh Komeylyan*)

Motion to approve Order No. R9-2021-00120:

- Mr. Strawn

Second:

- Ms. Blair

MOTION CARRIED

Aye:

- Dr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- None.

Chair Cantú called a recess at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

ACTION ITEM

- 4. Tentative Resolution: Consideration of Resolution No. R9-2021-0162 Supporting the 2021-22 Operational Plan. *(David Gibson)*

David Gibson gave the staff presentation and responded to Board Member questions and comments.

Motion to approve Resolution No. R9-2021-0162:

- Dr. Abarbanel

Second:

- Mr. Strawn

MOTION CARRIED

Aye:

- Dr. Abarbanel
- Mr. Anderson
- Ms. Blair
- Dr. Olson
- Mr. Strawn
- Ms. Warren
- Chair Cantú

Nay:

- None.

Absent:

- None.

Abstain:

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 5. Updates from the San Diego River: The San Diego River Park Foundation will provide an update on its Healthy Waters Initiative in the headwaters and Trash-Free Campaign in the lower river. *(David Gibson)*

David Gibson provided an introduction of the item, followed by a presentation from Rob Hutsel, President and CEO, and Sara Hutmacher, Chief Associate Director, of the San Diego River Park Foundation.

Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hutsel, and Ms. Hutmacher responded to Board Member questions and comments.

- 6. Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental (PFEA) Binational Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Lab and Data. *(David Gibson)*

David Gibson introduced the item, followed by a presentation from Margarita Diaz, Director of PFEA.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

- 6. Future Agenda Items: Recommended Course of Action and Estimated Staff Hours to Address Actions from the June 2021 Board Meeting. In addition, Board Members may discuss items for possible inclusion on future agendas. *(Kelly Dorsey)*

Dr. Abarbanel asked Mr. Gibson to set up a meeting with the San Diego County Water Authority and/or the City of San Diego Public Works Department to discuss the possibility of establishing more desalination plants in the Region and in light of the ongoing drought, selling some of the water to inland areas along the Colorado River, such as Nevada.

Dr. Olson requested an update on the strategy for monitoring and assessment of harmful algal blooms in the Region.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Cantú adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

These Minutes were prepared by:

Signed by:

Christina A. Blank
Executive Assistant

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer